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STAT

White House Bid to Remove CIA Chief Reported

DETROIT (AP)—The White House staff is trying to ease Adm. Stansfield Turner out of his job as head of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Detroit News reported Monday.

The News, quoting unidentified sources, said that President Carter's national security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, is leading the effort to remove Turner and that Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance tacitly is supporting the effort.

Asked about the report, White House Press Secretary Jody Powell vehemently denied that Turner was being ousted. "There's no truth in that," he said.

Another Administration source, who asked not to be named, said White House officials were "completely discounting" the report. He pointed out that Carter will sign a reorganization directive today that enhances Turner's authority.

Carter, a classmate of Turner's at the Naval Academy, was said to be looking for a face-saving solution that would avoid his having to concede that he made a mistake in appointing Turner, the News said.

The newspaper reported that Turner is willing to leave for an assignment as chief of naval operations, the top Navy post, or as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.